



2/22/79
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AK050A

Buenos Aires

February 22, 1979

UNCLASSIFIED

Ms. Wendy W. Turnbull,
Amnesty International USA,
3618 Sacramento Street,
San Francisco, California 94118

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Dear Ms. Turnbull:

The staff has finally accumulated the information necessary to reply to your letter of February 6 with its enclosed list of applicants. You will note that there has been some sort of action on almost all the cases. In a few instances such as Humberto Acosta and Ruben Jantzon the information is not altogether complete. We are trying to find out what Acosta's current status is, that is whether he is to be freed or he is being charged and is to be tried in the courts. We must assume that Ruben Jantzon has received a certificate from some other Embassy since otherwise the Ministry would not be processing his petition for right of option. As a generalization, when the Ministry refuses a request for interview the applicant is either being tried, has recently had a petition for right of option denied or has already been granted right of option.

Our biggest problem is with those who are announced as having been removed from PEN status. Customarily, it takes two to four weeks for the formal documentation for such a prisoner to move from the Ministry to the prison, and if the documents provide for release that may require up to eight days more. Consequently, we are fortunate when we are able to learn from the family of the release of a PEN prisoner within a month of the time his name appears in the press. You will also note that our request to interview Dr. Marcos Broschi was denied on November 15, 1978.

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Box 17404

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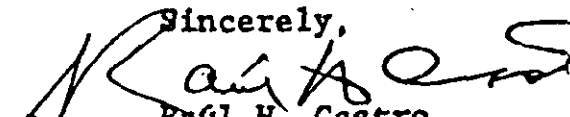
There have been five persons who have gone to the United States under the right of option program, although not all of them are parolled. In some cases they received immigrant visas in some cases they were dual nationals and travelled on U. S. passports and in some cases they were granted parole. We believe that ICEM will be providing transportation for those coming to the United States. Further information on this may come from the Department of State which is dealing with ICEM.

I am glad to hear that your refugee resettlement program is moving ahead well and wish you the best of luck in this valuable effort. As you may have heard, Frank Azevedo has been withdrawn from Argentina by the IRC, since the refugee program is virtually completed.

I am enclosing current data on A.I. interest cases. This should give you a reasonable background on the status of each case. If there is an omission to your request it is based on a shortage of personnel to prepare lists rather than an oversight or an effort to evade the question. Due to a world-wide personnel reduction process, we seem to be seriously affected plus recent events in the Consulate brought forth the necessity to dismiss several Nationals for Admin reasons. We are just now attempting to put the pieces together by recruiting new help from other Embassy sections.

My best wishes and hope all goes well with you.

Sincerely,


Raul H. Castro
Ambassador

RHC:mmmp
Encl. list